

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 15-19 are all the claims pending in the application. By this Amendment, Applicant rewrites claim 2 into its dependent form and amends claim 3 to include the features of the allowable claim 17. Accordingly, claim 17 is cancelled and claim 18 is amended for conformity therewith.

Claims 1-4 and 15-19 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 2-4, 15, 16, and 19 presently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claim 1 is allowed and claims 17 and 18 contain allowable subject matter.

By this Amendment, Applicant places this application in condition for immediate allowance. Specifically, Applicant does not acquiesce to the Examiner's reasons for allowance or to the Examiner's rejections. However, to expedite the prosecution of the above-identified application and without commenting on the substantive merits of the Examiner's rejections, Applicant rewrites claim 2 to depend on the allowable claim 1 and amends claim 3 to include the allowable claim 17. Accordingly, as acknowledged by the Examiner, independent claim 3 is now allowable and claim 2 is allowable at least by virtue of its dependency. Claims 4, 15, 16, 18, and 19 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 3.

With respect to the provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection of claims 2-4, 15, 16, and 19 as allegedly unpatentable over claims 1-9 of copending Application No. 10/692,011 (hereinafter "the '011 Application") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,230,683 to Decker et al. (hereinafter "Decker"). Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw this rejection since claim 2 now depends on claim 1 and claim 3 now includes the unique features of claim 17. Accordingly, claims 2 and 3 are not obvious over '011 Application in view of Decker. Claims 4, 15, 16, and 19 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

In view of the above, reconsideration and **immediate** allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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